



# Washington State Department of Agriculture

## Hearing Notice

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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### **WSDA slates hearings in Spokane, Yakima and Olympia to update pesticide rules**

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) proposes to update its general pesticide rules, including changes that may affect how pesticides are applied and how the industry conducts business. Public hearings will be held at 6 p.m. at the following locations and dates in September:

- **Yakima:** Sept. 23, WSDA Conference Room, Suite 236, 21 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.
- **Spokane:** Sept. 24, WSU Spokane County Cooperative Extension Office, Room A, lower level, N. 222 Havana St.
- **Olympia:** Sept. 29, WSDA, Room 259, 1111 Washington St. SW.

“Our last update took effect in 2000 and we want to continue to make rules more understandable as new technologies emerge, pesticides get canceled or introduced, or problem areas in enforcement, registration or licensing need clarification,” said Ann Wick, a pesticide program manager with WSDA. Staff worked with its Pesticide Advisory Board and sought comments by posting draft proposals on the Internet prior to finalizing potential rule changes that will be presented at the rule-making hearings.

Some of the changes the agency is proposing are:

- Requiring positive identification prior to the purchase of restricted use pesticides. Identification would be required annually when purchasers are checked for proper licensing or with each purchase if the person is unknown to the dealer. Dealers do not have to keep records about the positive identification verification.
- Requiring dealers to record the crop or site to which the pesticide is to be applied for restricted use and, if known, for general use products.
- Prohibiting the application of pesticides by airblast sprayers near occupied schools, hospitals, nursing homes or similar establishments under conditions that may result in contamination. This doesn’t change WSDA enforcement policy or prohibit the use of airblast sprayers in these areas, but clarifies the extra precautions that need to be taken.
- Updating the rules to reflect changes regarding structural pest inspection licenses made by recently passed legislation.

For a copy of the proposed rules, call Laurie Mauerman at (360) 902-2012 or access the WSDA Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/RuleMaking/GeneralRules.htm>. Send written comments to: Washington State Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Management Division, P.O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98504-2589. Comments may also be sent by fax to (360) 902-2093, or by e-mail to [lmauerman@agr.wa.gov](mailto:lmauerman@agr.wa.gov).

The deadline for comment is 5 p.m. Sept. 30.